

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

AGENDA ITEM SUMMARY

Meeting Date: Sept. 15th

Division: BOCC

Bulk Item: Yes can be No

Department:

AGENDA ITEM WORDING: Equitable support from the County of Monroe of \$14,000.00 to match an equal amount from foundations that support the legitimate non-profit (501C3) Corporations that provide 24/7, 365 days a year, humane animal control & support for year-round and migratory birds that inhabit the Florida Keys.

Birding is a fast growing interest and a valuable economic component of our overall economy. Many, more than most know, come to The Keys to view our local year-round fauna, as well as the migratory species of the Eastern Flyway. Please consider the proposed motion as an investment that will assist in providing protection, treatment, and educational outreach for a valuable resource of the Florida Keys.

ITEM BACKGROUND: as all commissioners know, The Florida Keys are part of the Eastern Fly Way for many migratory birds; serving both as a stopping off point for those that continue on south and on their northerly return and temporary home for those that winter here. Many of these birds, both local and migratory, are subject to many human produced "death-traps" e.g. mono-filament line, hooks & line, cars, towers, discarded fish carcass, oil spills, chemical pollution etc.

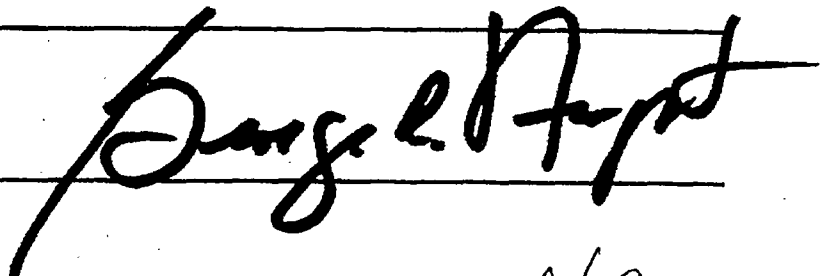
The birding groups that provide legitimate humane care for birds that are injured & maimed work hand to mouth on providing these valuable services; The BOCC has now before us an opportunity to financially assist these struggling enterprises.

PREVIOUS RELEVANT BOCC ACTION:

Financial Support of \$14, 000.00 for the Upper Keys Bird Center

CONTRACT/AGREEMENT CHANGES:

STAFF RECOMMENDATIONS:


N2

Helena 4

EXOTIC AND WILD BIRD RESCUE OF THE FLORIDA KEYS
P.O. Box 431392, Big Pine Key, Florida 305-872-1982
E-mail: M. Totman at <chicco54@bellsouth.net>

August 26, 2004

Board of County Commissioners
Monroe County, Florida

Dear Sirs,

We are requesting County funds in the amount of \$14,000 to support our wild bird rescue and nature conservation center that operates from Big Pine Key. This would be the same amount approved at your last meeting (August 18th) for the Wild Bird Center of Tavenier. Like the Tavenier center, we operate in unincorporated Monroe County, but in our case we cannot expect a municipality to provide support. However, we are prepared to match the County's \$14,000 with an equal amount of funds available to us from charitable foundations.

Profile: Established in February 2000 and located in Big Pine Key, Exotic and Wild Bird Rescue of the Florida Keys, Inc. (EWBR) is a 501(C)(3) non-profit organization with State and Federal certification. The mission of EWBR is to rescue and rehabilitate sick and injured wild birds, restore wildlife habitat to a more productive condition, and educate citizens about nature so that everyone is made aware of the importance of respecting all life and the environment. All services are professionally managed, free of charge, and we operate around the clock, every day of the year. There are no salaried personnel or board members. Volunteers help to expand the services of EWBR.

EWBR is a small volunteer organization, created to fill a geographic gap in wild bird rescue coverage in the Keys, operating in unincorporated Monroe County between Key West and Marathon - although we go outside those boundaries when necessary. We collaborate with all County, State, and Federal wildlife and law enforcement agencies who now refer to us all cases of wild bird disablement in the Lower Florida Keys. As well, with "Rescue" in our name, we seem to have become "the place" to call about, bring, or drop off (sometimes in the middle of the night) all sorts of critters from orphaned and injured baby raccoons and kittens to abandoned dogs, cats, chickens, domestic ducks, and rabbits as well as disabled frogs, turtles, and iguanas. We will not turn away any critter in need, and so we accept and care for them until their appropriate rehabilitators can collect them.

Facilities: EWBR has established a modest sized rehabilitation facility where there are aviaries for housing sick and injured birds, flight cages/sanctuaries (two with concrete pools for wading birds), and regular and intensive care facilities including diagnostic and remedial capabilities in the bird hospital, which has modern examination and treatment equipment (much of it donated by hospitals and clinics). The Director is a trained surgical nurse with experience in the use of modern medical approaches to animal care. Professional veterinarians are consulted in special cases. Field vehicles are those donated by the Monroe County Sheriff's Department when replaced by new vehicles. The needed operating budget for EWRB is \$40,000 per year which we have been struggling to obtain and too often fall short.

Services: Last year, EWBR rescued and treated over 500 disabled wild birds, many of which suffered fishing-related injuries because of carelessness. These included wading birds such as herons, pelicans, and cormorants; raptors such as hawks, ospreys, owls; and songbirds. When crippled or sick birds are reported by citizens or law enforcement or conservation officers, EWBR sends a volunteer to the scene to rescue the bird and usually to bring it to the EWBR facility for treatment and later release back to nature. Forty-one disabled wild birds remain in long-term care. Some are employed in EWBR's educational program which centers on nature and ecology but also provides people with an up-close look at the damage that improperly discarded fish line and other trash can cause.

Problems with fishing. The Florida Keys are a premier fishing area. Unfortunately, improperly discarded monofilament line is a top killer of wild birds in the Keys (as well as being responsible for the deaths and maiming of manatees, sea turtles, and other marine life). Entangled in this fishing line, they can die, sometimes quickly, more often in gruesome, lingering deaths. In 2002, EWBR began placing monofilament recycling containers at various bridges and marinas, as money from donations permitted, so that fishermen can properly dispose of monofilament. At an outreach meeting in the Upper Keys, EWBR introduced to the participants the recycling container, and Staff of the newly-formed Florida Overseas Heritage Trail decided to place containers along the "trail," at every bridge in the Keys (and other coastal fishing locations in Florida) using stickers designed by EWBR.

Education in County schools: EWBR's education program focuses on interactive events and ongoing projects such as learning about and growing wildlife friendly plants for placement in various habitats. Writing essays on wildlife and habitat, and performing cleanup activities helps to reinforce material being presented and creates a deeper understanding of nature and conservation. Participants are asked to write about what they have learned, and their essays have been published weekly in the News Barometer and posted on school bulletin boards. The program is conducted in schools throughout the Keys and teachers are active participants. During summer months, EWBR hosts youth groups - Boy/Girl Scouts, YMCA, and visiting student groups from other areas of the U.S.

Public Education: EWBR has an active outreach program to teach people about the importance of protecting wildlife and keeping the environment clean for wildlife and humans. It became obvious early on that simply caring for injured and orphaned birds coming through the doors of EWBR was not enough. Thus, outreach and educational programs which strive to bring about public awareness about environmental pollution, habitat damage, and exploitation of wildlife are part of our mission. Brochures and flyers are made available at public places and personally handed out on beaches (to mitigate trash problems), bridges (to educate fishing people about the hazards of monofilament line to wading birds), and other venues for public gatherings. Presentations are made at various meetings such as the Audubon and Discovery programs as well as to informal groups at RV sites, recreation facilities, marinas, and fishing lodges. Helpful *what-to-do-if* hints are published in newspapers.

Sincerely,

Maya Totman, Director
Exotic and Wild Bird Rescue of the Florida Keys

07/29/04

Exotic & Wild Bird Rescue of the Florida Keys, Inc.
Budget Overview
 January through December 2004

	<u>Jan - Dec '04</u>
Ordinary Income/Expense	
Income	
Contributions Income	
Unrestricted	13,400.00
Total Contributions Income	13,400.00
Grants	34,000.00
Total Income	47,400.00
Expense	
Automobile Expense	1,100.00
Education	
Birding Festival	600.00
Childrens Project	400.00
Earth Day	200.00
Fish Carcass Signs	250.00
Literature	250.00
Monofilament Recycle Signs	250.00
Newsletter Printing	500.00
Photography	100.00
Tree Planting	150.00
Total Education	2,700.00
Equipment Rental	200.00
Food	
Bird Food	4,500.00
Crickets	450.00
Fish	7,500.00
Mealworms	1,500.00
Rodents	1,900.00
Total Food	15,850.00
Insurance	
Liability Insurance	1,300.00
Total Insurance	1,300.00
Licenses and Permits	100.00
Medical	
Blood Work	500.00
Equipment	5,900.00
Services	2,000.00
Supplies	2,500.00
Total Medical	10,900.00
Postage and Delivery	250.00
Promotional Items	
Hats & Ts	500.00
Promotional Items - Other	1,000.00
Total Promotional Items	1,500.00
Rent	
Premises	6,000.00
Total Rent	6,000.00
Repairs	
Computer Repairs	100.00
Equipment Repairs	300.00
Total Repairs	400.00
Supplies	
Birds	1,000.00
Office	500.00
Total Supplies	1,500.00

07/23/04

Exotic & Wild Bird Rescue of the Florida Keys, Inc.
Budget Overview
January through December 2004

	Jan - Dec '04
Taxes	
Tangible Property	100.00
Taxes - Other	100.00
Total Taxes	200.00
Telephone	2,200.00
Utilities	3,200.00
Total Expenses	47,400.00
Net Ordinary Income	0.00
Net Income	0.00



FACILITIES
OR
MACHINES

TYPE OF
BUSINESS
BUSINESS
ADDRESS

NAME
MAILING
ADDRESS

2004-2005

MONROE STATE OF FLORIDA
OCCUPATIONAL TAX

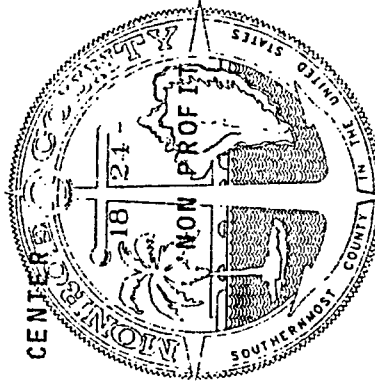
MUST BE DISPLAYED IN CONSPICUOUS PLACE
ROOMS SEATS EMPLOYEES

53110 EXOTIC & WILD BIRD CENTER

1388 AVENUE B
00 - COUNTY OF MONROE

EXOTIC & WILD BIRD RESCUE
OF THE FL KEYS
TOTMAN MAYA I
1388 AVENUE B
BIG PINE KEY FL 33043

AK# 1350583



ACCOUNT 53110-0078090
EXPIRES SEP. 30, 2005

SUPPLEMENTAL
RENEWAL
NEW TAX
TRANSFER
ORIGINAL TAX
AMOUNT
PENALTY
COLLECTION COST
TOTAL
DANISE D. HENRIQUEZ
TAX COLLECTOR
913872.0001 of 0001
DATE 8/25/04

THIS BECOMES A TAX
RECEIPT WHEN VALIDATED

DANISE D. HENRIQUEZ TAX COLLECTOR
PO BOX 1129, KEY WEST FL 33041-1129

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THIS IS ONLY A TAX. YOU MUST
MEET ALL COUNTY AND/OR
MUNICIPALITY PLANNING AND
ZONING REQUIREMENTS.